Claims

[c1]   What is claimed is:

1.A bootable software delivery device comprising:

a connection port for connecting the software delivery device to a computer;

a microcontroller coupling the connection port for controlling the software

delivery device; and

a flash memory coupling the microcontroller for storing a software;

wherein the microcontroller is so programmed that the software is executable

by the computer only when the computer is booted up from the software

delivery device.

[c2]   2.The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the microcontroller prevents

copying of the software from the flash memory of the software delivery device.

[c3]   3.The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is an

integrated drive electronics (IDE) port.

[c4]   4.The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is a small

computer system interface (SCSI) port.

[c5]   5.The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is a

universal serial bus (USB) port.

[c6]

6.A software delivery device for providing software copy protection, the

software delivery device comprising:

a connection port for electrically connecting the software delivery device to a

computer;

a microcontroller ,electrically connected to the connection port, in which an

authentication program is installed for booting the computer from the software

delivery device;

a flash memory electrically connected to the microcontroller, the flash memory

comprising a boot sector for booting the computer in accordance with the

authentication program; and

a private program stored in the flash memory, the private program being

executable by the computer only after booting from the boot sector is

performed;

wherein the authentication program instructs the microcontroller to return a virtual boot sector rather than the boot sector to the computer.

[c7]   7.The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the microcontroller prevents copying of the private program from the flash memory of the software delivery device.

[c8]   8.The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is an integrated drive electronics (IDE) port.

[c9]   9.The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is a small computer system interface (SCSI) port.

[c10]   10.The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is a universal serial bus (USB) port.

[c11]   11.The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the authentication program is stored in a read only memory of the microcontroller.

[c12]   12.A method for protecting a software, the method comprising:

providing a bootable device for delivering the software, the bootable device comprising a flash memory for storing the software, a connection port for connecting to a computer, and a microcontroller for executing the software with the computer via the connection port; and

programming the microcontroller in such a way that the software is executable by the computer only when the computer is booted up from the bootable device.